



An ODF Update

21 June 2006

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Today's Suggested Agenda

- What progress has been made
- Next steps
- Questions



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May 1st, 2006, ISO/IEC DIS 26300 Ballot Passes

- ODF now an international standard
- 31/31 “yes” votes, including: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.
- Some nations expressed comments with their ballots, which ranged from statements of support, to indications of typographical errors. The OASIS ODF TC will take these comments and provide a “comment disposition report” to ISO within the next few weeks.

Gartner Analysis

Gartner

Research

Publication Date: 12 May 2006

ID Number: G00140101

ISO Approval of OASIS OpenDocument Is a Blow to Microsoft

Rita E. Knox, Michael A. Silver

International standards bodies' unanimous approval of ISO/IEC 26300 moves OASIS OpenDocument Format to being the official XML document format. It is now unlikely that ISO will adopt Microsoft's Open XML document format.

The Global Momentum for Open Standards Builds...



OPEN DOCUMENT FORMAT
ODF ALLIANCE

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As documents and services are increasingly transformed from paper to electronic form, there is a growing problem that governments and their constituents may not be able to access, retrieve and use critical records, information and documents in the future. To enable the public sector to have greater control over and direct management of their own records, information and documents, the ODF Alliance seeks to promote and advance the use of OpenDocument Format (ODF).

The alliance works globally to educate policymakers, IT administrators and the public on the benefits and opportunities of the OpenDocument Format, to help ensure that government information, records and documents are accessible across platforms and applications, even as technologies change today and in the future.

www.odfalliance.org

April: From 36 to 138 Members in One Month

The screenshot shows a web page from Computer Business Review Online. The main article is titled "ODF Alliance Membership Swells Ahead of Standards Decision" and is dated 20th April 2006, written by Saff Writer. The article reports that the ODF Alliance has grown from 36 to 138 members, ahead of a crucial vote on whether to accept it as an international standard. The page also features a sidebar with navigation links, a search bar, and several action buttons like "Print Friendly", "Email Article", and "Your Opinion".

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ODF Alliance Membership Swells Ahead of Standards Decision

20th April 2006
By Saff Writer

The ODF Alliance, which was formed to promote the use of the OpenDocument Format, has almost quadrupled its membership since its launch, reaching 138 members ahead of a crucial vote that will determine whether it is accepted as an international standard.

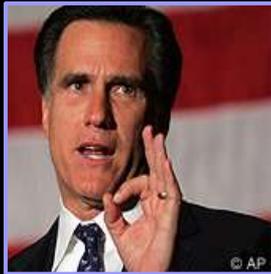
The ODF Alliance was formed by vendors and interested industry groups to promote the use of the ODF by local and national government organizations. The initial membership of 36 has swelled to 138 as support for the new format for productivity documents has grown.

The OpenDocument Format emerged from the open source OpenOffice.org project but was accepted as an official Oasis standard in May 2005. The six-month approval ballot for its adoption as a standard by the International Standards Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission, ends on May 1.

While the ODF Alliance is already actively supporting the adoption of the ODF by ISO and the IEC, it has also appointed a new managing director to formalize its work on "educating policy members on the benefits and opportunities of ODF" with former US Department of State official, Marino Marcich, getting the job.

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Massachusetts moves forward to require ODF in 2007



Goliath software companies and executive resignations are no match for the state of Massachusetts.

(Forbes.com, 2/1/06) Rachel Rosmarin

The commonwealth said Monday it would stick to its guns and implement open document software standards in every state government agency.

Governor Mitt Romney stood by the policy as his Chief Information Officer Peter Quinn resigned over the issue last month, and as Microsoft put its foot down by saying it wouldn't natively support the OpenDocument standard in Office 12, due out mid-year.

But Romney found himself a new CIO to get the job done. Louis Gutierrez will start work on February 6. "Gutierrez will be responsible for overseeing the final stages of implementation of the state's new OpenDocument format proposal, to go into effect in January 2007," Romney announced.

Norwegian Minister: Proprietary Formats Not Acceptable

'The Norwegian government is taking large steps in their software policy: everybody in the public sector has to develop a plan for use of open source solutions within 2006. The Norwegian Minister of Modernization, Morton A. Meyer, presented new plan for information technology in Norway called "eNorge – the digital leap", where one of the points concerned open standards and open source. ...

- Within 2009 all new ICT- and information systems in the public sector shall use open standards.
- Within 2006 a set of management/administrative standards for data and document exchange should be established
- Within 2006 all operations in the public sector should have introduced plans for how they will use open standards, service oriented architecture and open source. ...

Meyer also said **Proprietary formats will no longer be acceptable in communication between citizens and government. ...**'



Global attention, local action...

Push to Create Standards for Documents

By [STEVE LOHR](#)

Published: March 3, 2006

The New York Times
ON THE WEB

With government records, reports and documents increasingly being created and stored in digital form, there is a software threat to electronic access to government information and archives. The problem is that public information can be locked in proprietary software whose document formats become obsolete or cannot be read by people using software from another company.

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- **Next steps**
- OASIS ODF versus ECMA OO XML
- Questions



ODF 1.0 (second edition)

- In public comment period now.
- Specification will be reformatted to match ISO requirements
- Various typographical errors will be fixed
- Nonsubstantial Comments made by some National Bodies during the ISO ballot will be incorporated
- Goal is to be 100% backwards compatible with ODF 1.0. So, no schema changes/

ODF 1.1 (November 2006)

- Main focus will be accessibility, implementing recommendations made by the ODF Accessibility Subcommittee:
 - Alternative text for non-text objects (3 recommendations)
 - Proper association of captions to captioned content
 - Encoding of pagination information
 - Preservation of table semantic structure imported from other file formats
 - Proper encoding of authored table header content
 - Author-defined logical navigation of page objects in presentations
 - Provision of alternative text hints for hyperlinks

ODF 1.2 (2007)

- A variety of enhancements which may include:
 - metadata enhancements
 - better XForms integration
 - additional accessibility work
 - Specification of spreadsheet formulas
 - Interoperability with Chinese UOF format



Thank you!

Resources

Academic and UN Reports

- Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School's *Roadmap for Open ICT Ecosystem*
<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/epolicy/roadmap.pdf>
- Committee for Economic Development's *Open Standards, Open Source, and Open Innovation: Harnessing the Benefits of Openness*
<http://www.ced.org/projects/ecom.shtml>
- UNDP Primer on Open Standards
<http://www.apdip.net/publications/fosseprimers/foss-openstds-withcover.pdf>

Resources (continued)

Government Open Standard Policy Positions and Interoperability Frameworks

- Australia's *Developing and Executing an ICT Sourcing Strategy* http://www.agimo.gov.au/_sourceit/sourceit/oss
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Enterprise Technical Reference Model <http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=itdsubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Policies%2c+Standards+%26+Legal&L2=Enterprise+AItd>
- European Commission's Electronic Interoperability Framework proposal Commission. <http://europa.eu.int/idabc/en/document/3761/5583>
- E-Norway 2009 and Public Sector Use of Open IT Standards and Open Source <http://odin.dep.no/fad/english/doc/reports/bn.html>

Resources (continued)

Useful Websites

- www.odfalliance.org
- <http://www.cospa-project.org/>
- <http://www-03.ibm.com/developerworks/blogs/page/BobSutor>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument>

Standards bodies

- World Wide Web Consortium (XML, HTTP, etc.) www.w3c.org
- Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) (ODF, ebXML, SOAP, WSRP, etc.) www.oasis-open.org
- Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) <http://java.sun.com/>
- Structured Query Language (SQL) www.sql.org/

Resources (continued)

Technical/Programmer Resources

- <http://books.evc-cit.info/>
- <http://www.oasis-open.org/archives/opendocument-users/>
- <http://www.oasis-open.org/archives/office/>